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ABSTRACT

Much of what ails urban education is actually the result of continuous or fragmentary reform efforts. A study of 57 school districts shows how political pressures drive reform, and suggests ways to nurture a more focused agenda for urban schools. The chapters are: (1) "The Politics of Urban School Reform"; (2) "Organizational and Personal Incentives for Reform"; (3) "The Supporting Players in Urban School Reform"; (4) "The Dizzying Pace of Urban School Reform"; (5) "A Political Explanation of Policy Selection"; (6) "Community Context and Urban School Reform"; (7) "The Effectiveness of Urban School Reform"; and (8) "The Spinning Wheels of Reform: Getting Unstuck." Four appendixes contain a discussion of study methodology, a list of districts studied, summary data on respondents, and regression results for the study. (Contains 12 tables, 4 figures, and 296 references.) (SLD)

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